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Information on micro slides and cover glasses

Dear customer,

Directive 98/79/EG on in-vitro diagnostic medical devices was put into force in December 2003. Maintenance or improvement in the level of health protection is one of the main objectives of the directive. Detailed information on handling micro slides and cover glasses is set out below.

1. Shelf-life, „use-by“-symbol

Micro slides:

The shelf-life of micro slides depends on several variables such as storage conditions, transport conditions, extreme variations in temperature and humidity and handling. By following the storage instructions (see point No. 2) shelf-life can be extended. Appropriate packaging of the glass (for example tropical packaging) gives additional protection against environmental conditions.

Due to the composition of the glass, the alkaline parts (SiO_2 , CaO , MgO und Na_2O) in combination with humidity can lead to an alteration of the glass surface after a certain time. The alteration becomes visible as a fine white haze on the glass surface. Later, the haze covers the whole surface. The surface of the micro slide can no longer be cleaned.

Due to the various climatic conditions in the countries, we are selling the slides to and taking into consideration the different product types we offer, we have classified shelf-lives as indicated:

- 12 months standard micro slides
- 15 months standard micro slides packed in tropical packaging
- 24 months diagnostic micro slides with PTFE-/epoxy coating

- image presentation in the format \varnothing xxxx – yy (xxxx = year, yy = month)

*By following the storage instructions and instructions for use, there should not be any problems due to surface deterioration before the end of the “use by” date. The “use by” date makes the end-user aware of the products, that need to be used first. This **does not mean**, that microscope slides cannot be used safely after the “use by” date. It is purely a recommendation to our customers, to organize their stockkeeping procedure following the FIFO principle (first in first out).*



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Cover glasses:

Cover glasses has a different glass composition compared to the glass used for micro slides. Cover glasses are made of borosilicate glass of the hydrolytical class 1. By following the storage instructions and the instructions for use, there should not be any problems due to surface deterioration. There is no shelf-life specification for cover glasses.

2. Storage instructions

The storage instructions below are included in every shipping carton:

- Keep dry.
- Avoid large variations in temperature during both storage and usage. Cooling off the product can cause condensation and lead to condensed water forming between the glass slides
- Please note: use older products in storage first
- Protect the bottom of the carton from dampness.
- Slide storage time: see „use by“ date

3. Instructions for use

The storage instructions below are included in every shipping carton:

- Slides and cover glasses are particularly suitable for the microscopic analysis of blood, urine and tissue samples.
- Slides and cover glasses are ready to use and should not be reused.
- Be aware of the possibility of harm when dealing with micro slides and cover glasses and take corresponding safety measures, e.g. wearing gloves.
- When using slides and cover glasses in machines, the additional instructions for use from the manufacturer of the machinery should be followed.
- When using dyes or other chemicals, please note the manufacturer's safety advice.